

A woman with glasses is shown in profile, looking out a window. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color. The text 'SEXUAL ASSAULT IS A CRIME' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center and bottom of the image.

# SEXUAL ASSAULT

IS A CRIME

# What are Rape and Sexual Assault?

**Rape** is a crime defined in Louisiana as any non-consensual anal, oral, or vaginal penetration.

**Sexual assault** is any form of sexual violence including rape, groping, forced kissing, or other sexual act.

**Sexual violence** can happen to anyone.



# Your Rights as a Victim:

The right to refuse to be interviewed by the accused or a representative of the accused

The right to review and comment upon the pre-sentence report prior to imposition of sentence

The right to seek restitution

The right to reasonably prompt conclusion to the case

The right to be present and heard during all critical stages of pre-conviction and post-conviction proceedings

The right to be informed upon the release from custody or the escape of the accused or the offender

The right to confer with prosecution prior to the final disposition of the case

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As a victim or designated family member of a victim, you may have the right of notification of certain proceedings in the criminal justice system that may affect you. For this notification, you must file a Victim Notice and Registration Form with the arresting law enforcement agency, the clerk of court, or the prosecuting agency that has jurisdiction over the case. By registering as a crime victim, you are also entitled to give a Victim Impact Statement.

For you to have these statutory rights, the defendant must be charged with any homicide, any felony crime of violence, any sex offense, any attempted sex offense, any human-trafficking-related offense, any attempted human-trafficking-related offense, vehicular negligent injuring, first degree vehicular negligent injuring, or any offense committed against a family member, household member, or dating partner.

# It's Important to Remember...

There is no right or wrong way to feel after being sexually assaulted. People are different, and they deal with trauma in many ways. Remember your reactions are normal and can diminish with time. If you or a loved one needs help, please contact your local sexual assault center or call the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault Helpline at 888-995-7273.

As a witness, you have many of the same rights given to the victim. The witness has a right to advance notification concerning judicial proceedings and to be provided a secure waiting area during court proceedings, which does not require close proximity to defendants and their family or friends.

In addition to those crime victim rights, you may also be entitled to file for certain compensation through Crime Victims Reparations program, administered by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, which can be reached at 888-995-7273.



# LOCAL VICTIM'S RESOURCES

Louisiana Attorney  
General's Office  
[www.BreakTheSilenceLA.com](http://www.BreakTheSilenceLA.com)  
225-326-6079

Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault  
[www.lafasa.org](http://www.lafasa.org)  
888-995-7273

Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement  
& Administration of Criminal Justice  
[www.lcle.state.la.us](http://www.lcle.state.la.us)  
225-342-1500

Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
[www.lcadv.org](http://www.lcadv.org)  
888-411-1333

Louisiana Automated Victim Notification System  
[www.lcle.state.la.us/programs/lavns.asp](http://www.lcle.state.la.us/programs/lavns.asp)  
866-528-6748

Louisiana Crime Victims Reparations  
[www.lcle.state.la.us/programs/cvr.asp](http://www.lcle.state.la.us/programs/cvr.asp)  
888-684-2846

Louisiana Address Confidentiality Program  
[www.sos.la.gov/OurOffice/AddressConfidentiality  
Program/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.sos.la.gov/OurOffice/AddressConfidentialityProgram/Pages/default.aspx)  
800-825-3805

CALL 911 FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE



**Attorney General Jeff Landry**  
Louisiana Department of Justice

